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FISH HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AT LAKE SHELBYVILLE

Lake Shelbyville, 13 December 2005 – Don't let your Christmas tree go to waste this year after the holidays. You can put your tree to good use by donating it for Fish Habitat Day at Lake Shelbyville. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources will place the discarded trees into Lake Shelbyville. Christmas trees are bundled together in small groups and submerged in the lake at select locations. These shelters provide fish with breeding areas and escape cover. Fish then have a better chance to reach maturity and provide a resource for anglers. New trees are added to select sites each year to maintain suitable cover.

Trees will be collected in Shelbyville and Sullivan. The designated collection site in Shelbyville will be at Johnstowne Mall on the west side of Shelbyville. Please place trees behind the barricade on the grass at the Northwest corner of the parking area (DO NOT PLACE TREES ON THE PARKING LOT). In Sullivan, residents may deposit their trees behind D&M Family Fashion and Sports Center on Highway 32. Trees will be collected at both sites from December 26, 2005 through January 6, 2006. Before delivering your tree to either of the designated collection sites please remove the stand, tinsel and any ornaments. If you have placed a plastic bag on your tree, remove it before leaving the tree. Please do not leave any other kind of tree trimmings, wreaths, flowers or yard waste at the sites.

A tentative date for the placement of the trees into the lake is March 4, 2006. Volunteers are needed to help bundle and place the trees in the lake. A free hot chili lunch will be served. More

details on the fish habitat workday will be announced at a later date. The Corps of Engineers greatly appreciates both communities for their support of this project.

For more information on this fish habitat project, contact Leanne Cruitt at (217) 774-2513 or Mike Mounce at (217) 345-2420.